

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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SEVEN SPRINGS NEIGHBORHOOD TO BE RAZED

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley announced today that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the state have awarded \$585,602 to Wayne County as part of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for the purchase of 13 residential properties in the Seven Springs neighborhood substantially damaged by Hurricane Floyd flooding. FEMA will contribute \$439,202 of the project funding and the state will contribute \$146,400.

“These buyouts are critical in helping communities prepare and prevent the devastation that can result from natural disasters,” said Easley. “Hurricane Floyd was an important lesson for us all. As we move forward with recovery, the buyout program remains a crucial component of our hazard mitigation plan.”

Under the HMGP, grants go to state and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures. The program’s goal is to reduce the loss of life, property and goods due to natural disasters. It gives residents the choice of moving permanently out of harm’s way.

Owners voluntarily agree to sell properties that are designated for buyouts. The homes in Seven were situated in a special flood hazard area that made them susceptible to flooding during periods of heavy rain. The land will become perpetual open space after the structures are removed.

Wayne County is a participant in good standing in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), a condition for qualifying for these acquisition grants.

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